



# Galahad 2099

...RESULTING IN  
AN ARMORED SUIT  
CONSIDERABLY STRONGER  
AND BETTER-EQUIPPED  
THAN ANYTHING  
PRODUCED BY  
CORPORATE INDUSTRY...

NO ONE BUT  
YOU COULD HAVE  
CREATED A MATERIAL  
WITH THAT KIND OF  
TENSILE STRENGTH,  
SHIELDS!

THE MAN'S  
A GENIUS!

A TWISTED  
GENIUS, IF YOU ASK  
ME. HE SEEMS MORE  
AT HOME WITH MACHINES  
THAN WITH OTHER  
HUMAN BEINGS.

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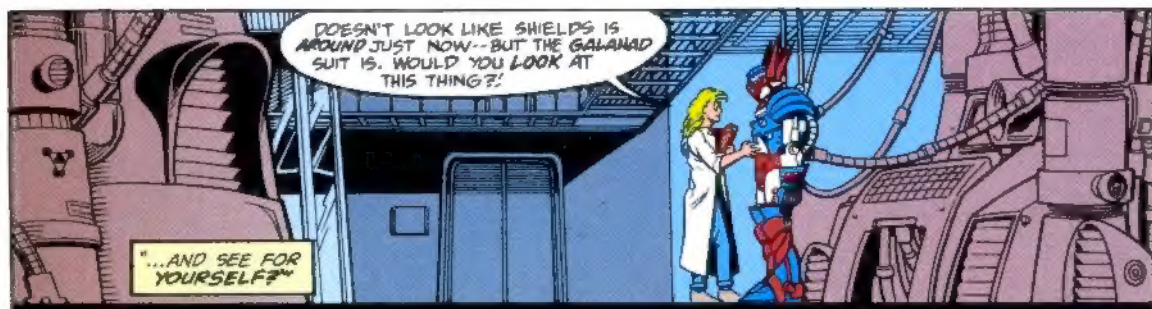
TOM DEFALCO  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

I MAY BE NEW HERE, BUT I'VE NEVER  
SEEN ANYONE WHO LIKED BEING A HERMIT.  
HAS ANYONE EVER TRIED REACHING  
OUT TO HIM ONCE IN A WHILE?

REACHING OUT TO ETHAN  
SHIELDS MIGHT BE A LITTLE  
DIFFICULT, CARTER. BUT WHY  
DON'T YOU VISIT HIS LAB...







DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SHIELDS IS AROUND JUST NOW-- BUT THE GALANAD SUIT IS. WOULD YOU LOOK AT THIS THING?!

"...AND SEE FOR YOURSELF?"

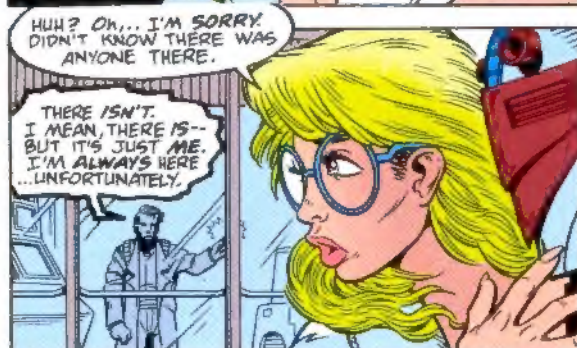


IT'S LIKE A KNIGHT FOR THE TWENTY-NINETIES! SHIELDS MUST HAVE A SOFT SPOT FOR THE ROMANTIC DAYS OF YORE.



I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT HE'D MIND MY LOOKING AT IT. I MEAN, IT'S NICE TO HEAR THE THEORY BEHIND IT, BUT THERE'S NO SUBSTITUTE FOR A HANDS-ON EXPERI--

PLEASE DON'T TOUCH THAT.



HUH? OH... I'M SORRY. DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS ANYONE THERE.

THERE ISN'T. I MEAN, THERE IS-- BUT IT'S JUST ME. I'M ALWAYS HERE... UNFORTUNATELY.



WAIT A MINUTE... YOU'RE ETHAN SHIELDS, AREN'T YOU? BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THERE?

CAN'T HELP IT. I'VE GOT NO IMMUNE SYSTEM. NEVER DID ONE STEP OUTSIDE THIS GERM-FREE ENVIRONMENT AND I COULD BE A DEAD MAN.

OF COURSE, IF I WAS RICH, THERE MIGHT BE OTHER OPTIONS. BUT I'M NOT, SO HERE I AM.





I'M SUZANNE CARTER. WAS JUST HIRED BY STARK-FUJIKAWA, I CAME TO...

MY WORK?

...TO SEE...

YES... YOUR WORK. I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE Y-LIKE IT.

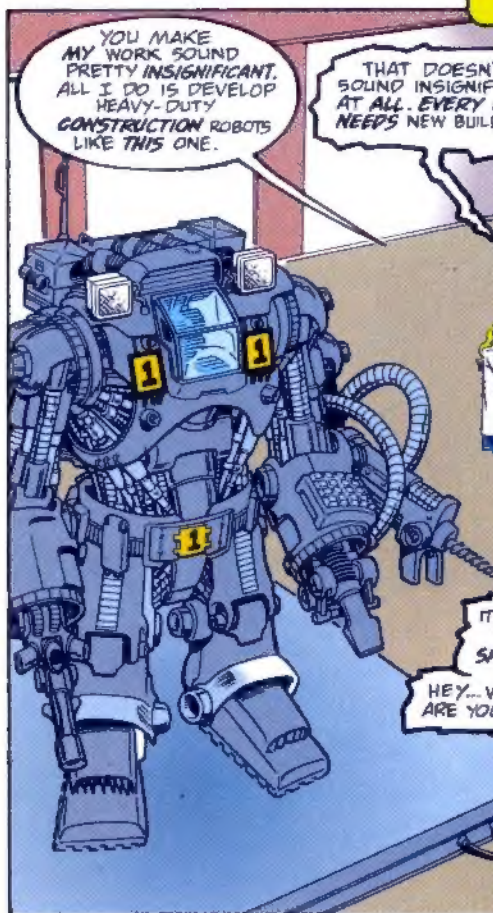


I'VE BEEN INTERESTED IN BODY ARMOR TECHNOLOGY FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER.

YOU SEE, WHEN I WAS VERY YOUNG, THERE WAS A FIRE IN MY DOWNTOWN HOME -- AN ANCIENT 20th CENTURY STRUCTURE JUST WAITING FOR THE RIGHT MATCH.

"A WATCHDOG GRUNT WHOSE NAME I NEVER LEARNED RESCUED ME FROM THAT FIRE -- THEN DIED TRYING TO SAVE OTHERS."

"PERHAPS WITH BODY ARMOR THE LIVES OF OTHER WATCHDOGS AND PUBLIC EYE GRUNTS WON'T BE ENDANGERED THE WAY THEY ARE NOW."



YOU MAKE MY WORK SOUND PRETTY INSIGNIFICANT. ALL I DO IS DEVELOP HEAVY-DUTY CONSTRUCTION ROBOTS LIKE THIS ONE.

THAT DOESN'T SOUND INSIGNIFICANT AT ALL. EVERY CITY NEEDS NEW BUILDINGS.

...IF YOU CAN'T LEAVE YOUR ENCLOSURE, HOW DID YOU BUILD THE GALAHAD SUIT?

IT WAS BUILT TO MY... SPECIFICATIONS.

HEY... WHERE ARE YOU GOING?



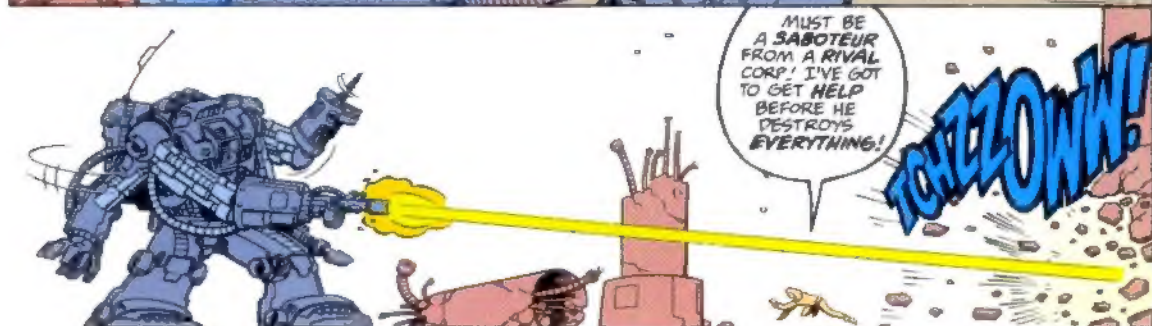
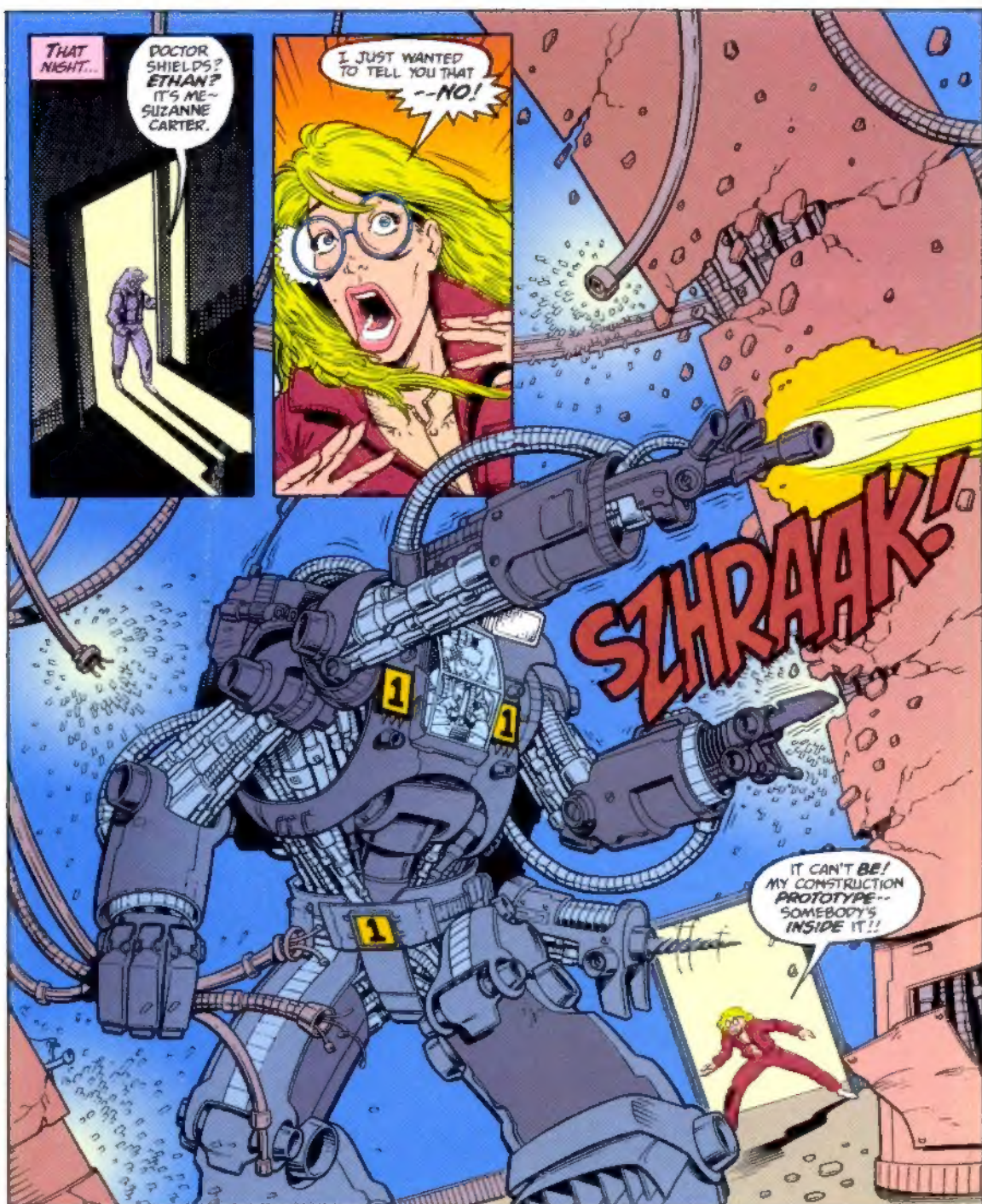
I... I'VE GOT A MEETING. BUT WE CAN TALK LATER, OKAY?

SURE. LATER.

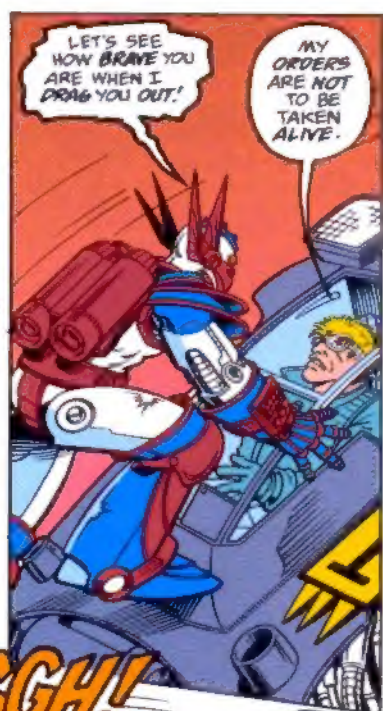
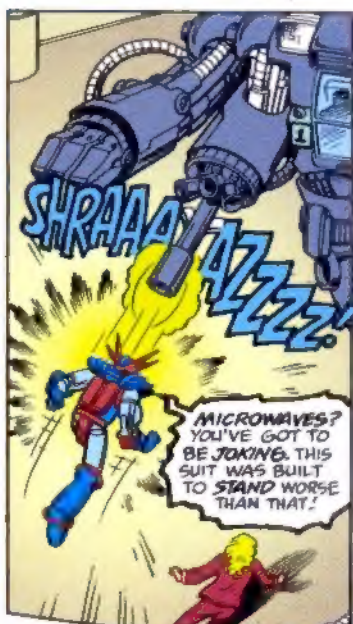
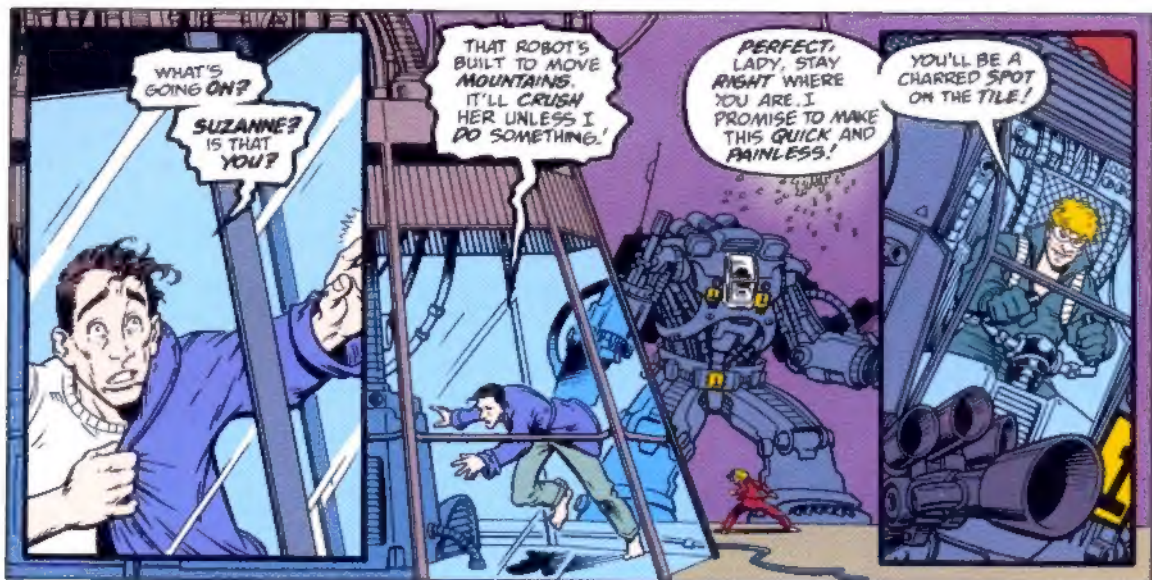
BUT... FEEL FREE TO COME BACK... ANYTIME...

...LORD KNOWS... I'LL ALWAYS BE HERE.

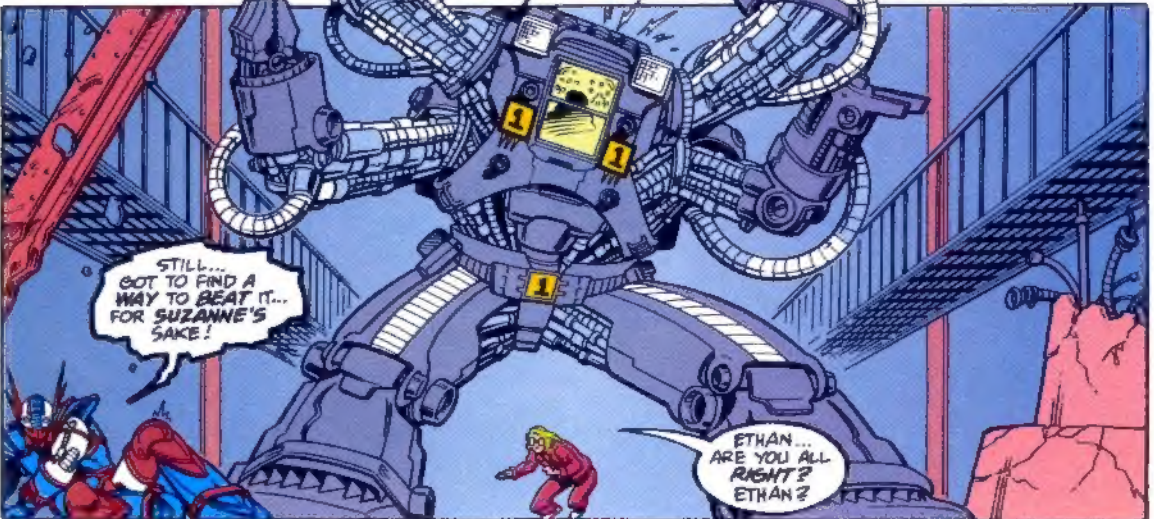
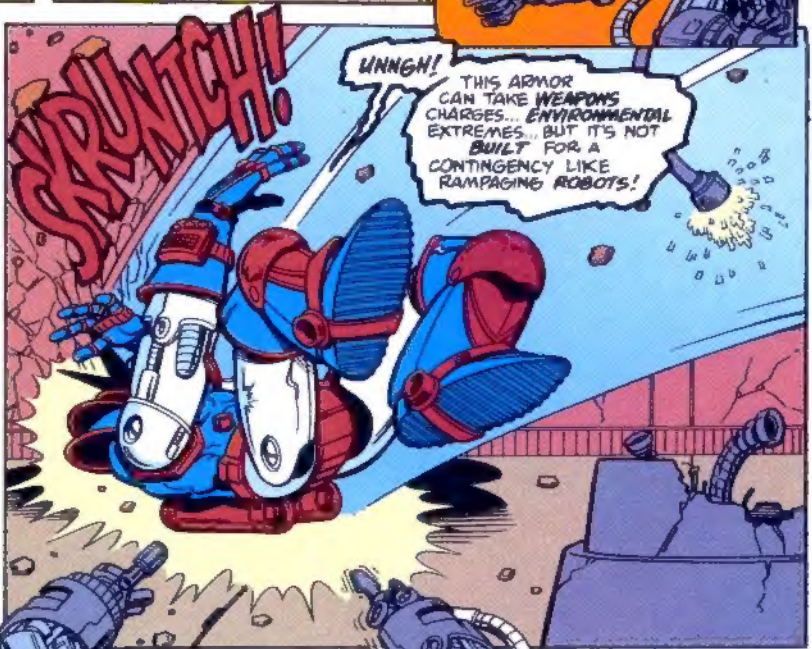
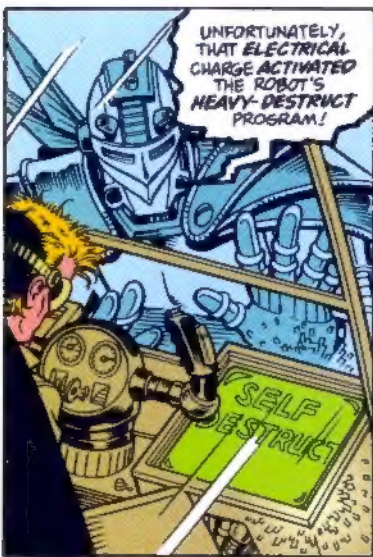




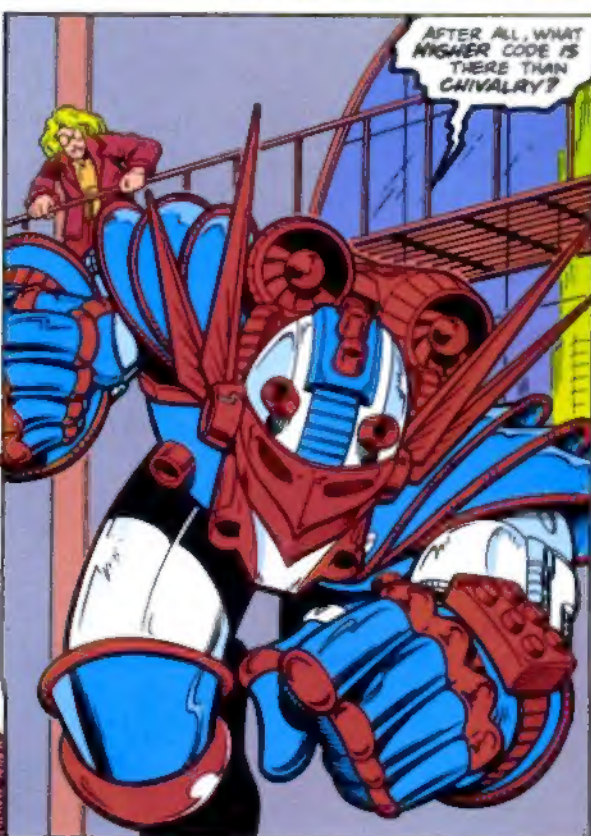
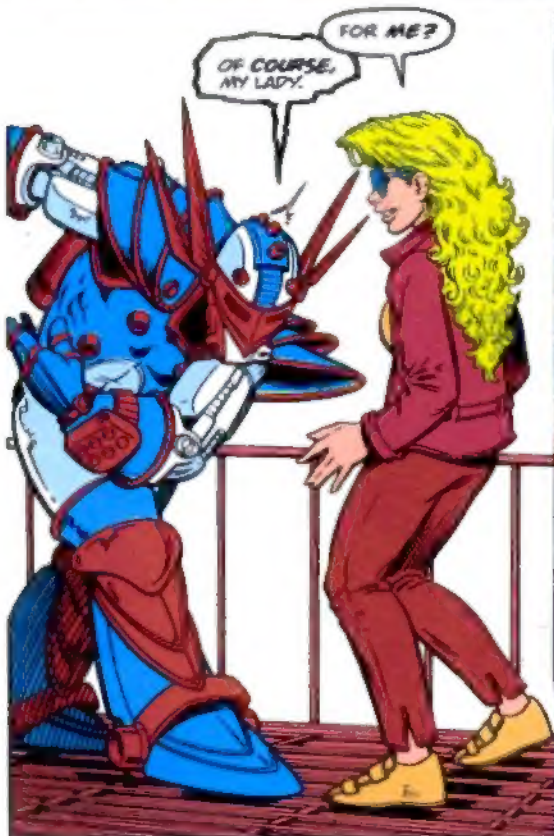
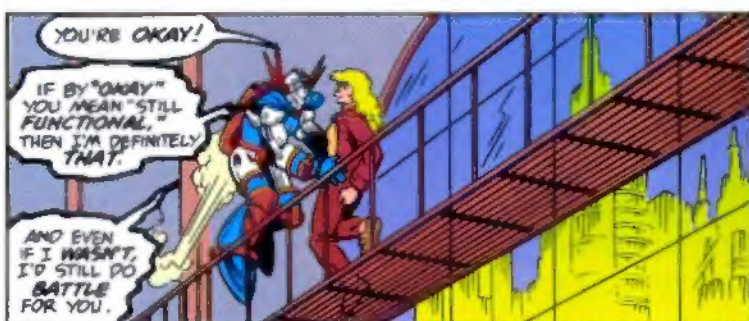
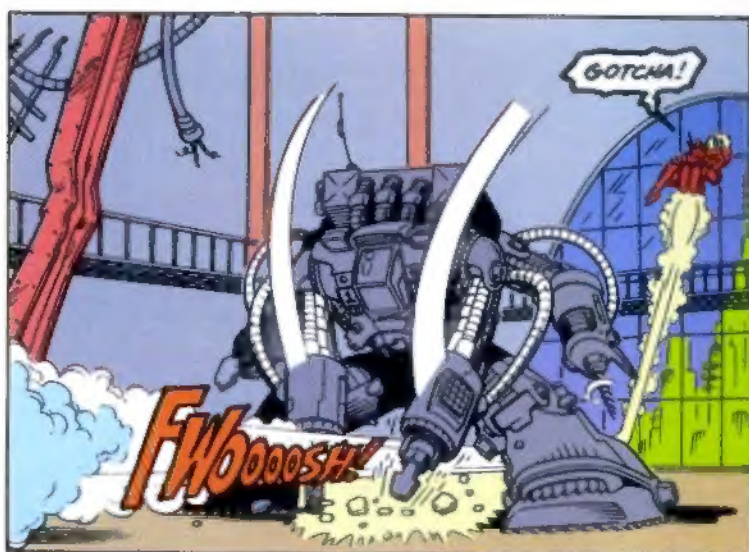




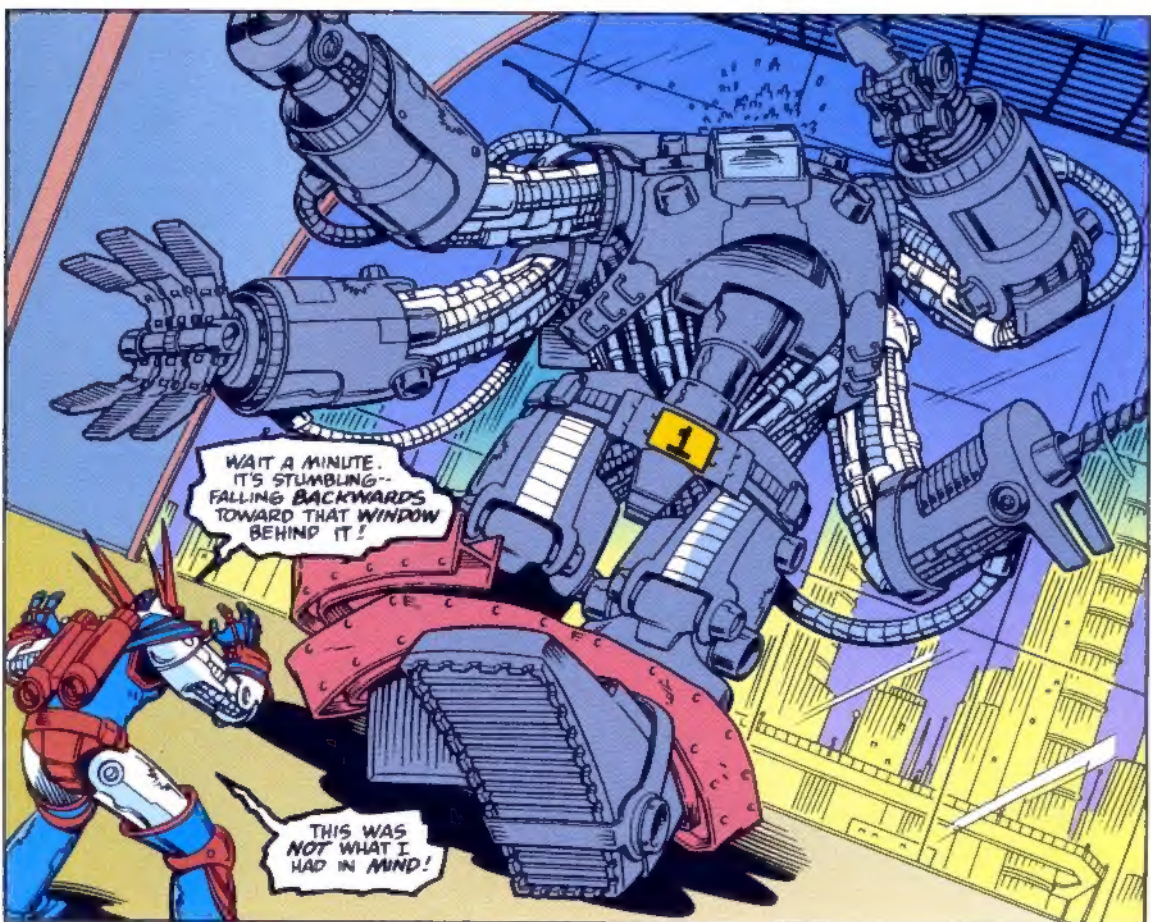
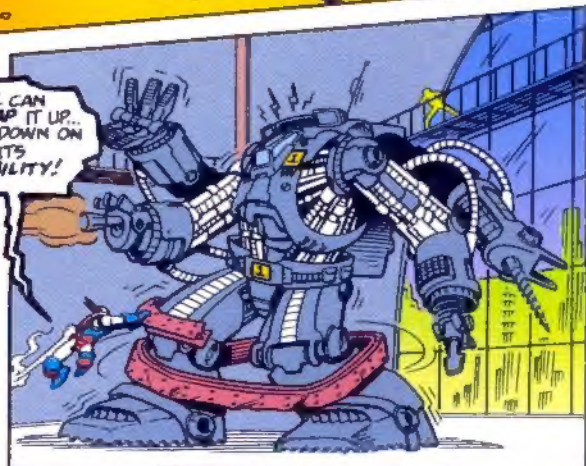








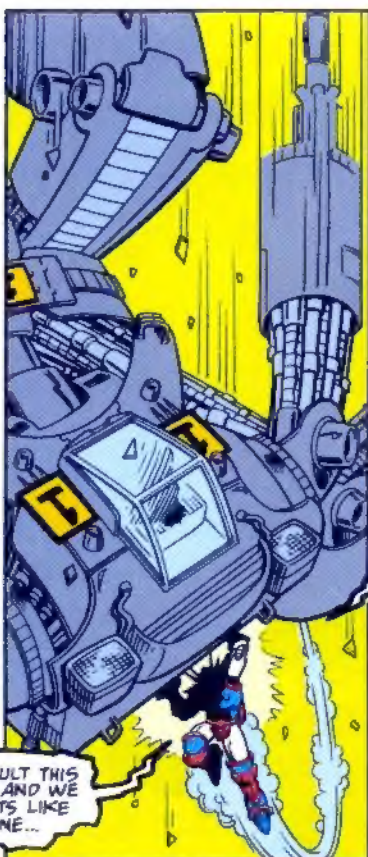








IT'S MY FAULT THIS THING FELL, AND WE NEED ROBOTS LIKE THIS ONE...



...TO PUT UP SAFER BUILDINGS... THAT WON'T BURST INTO FLAMES AT THE DROP OF A MATCH...

...I'VE GOT TO STOP IT... PULL IT UP...

**SKRASH!**



Ohmylord. ETHAN?



WAIT... THE GALANAD ARMOR. IT COULD HAVE SAVED HIM. HE COULD STILL BE ALIVE DOWN THERE!

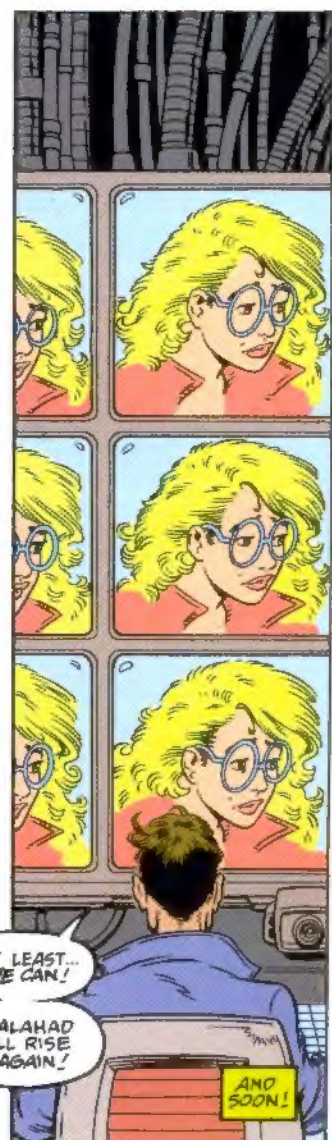
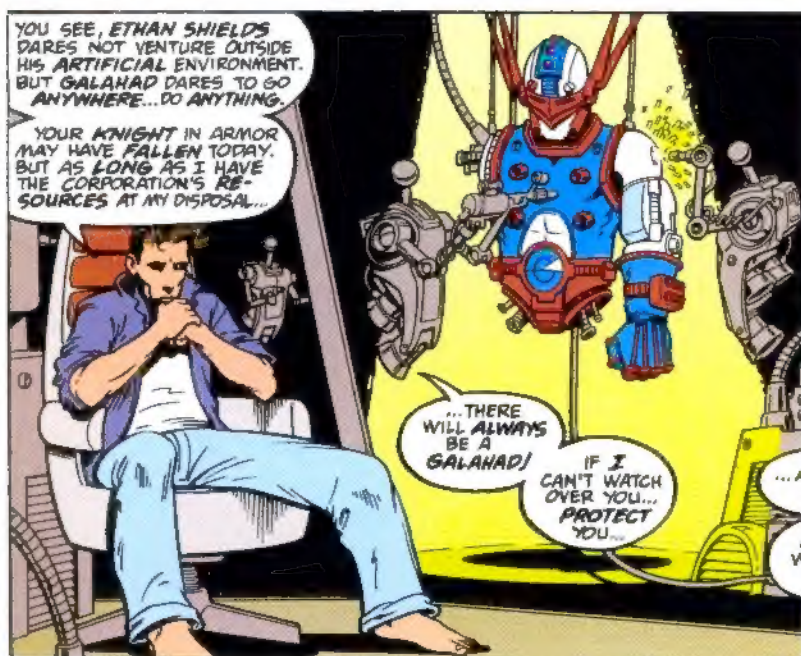
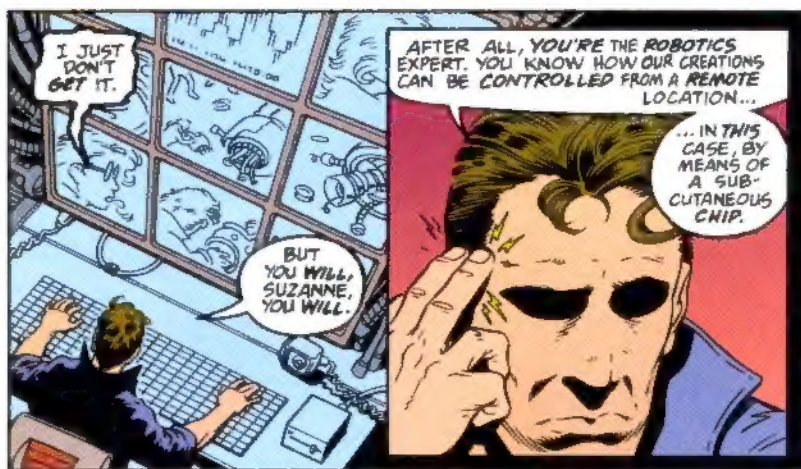


HE COULD STILL BE...

...OH, NO.

CHEEZ, I AIN'T NEVER SEEN A WRECK LIKE THIS ONE. I'M JUST GLAD I WASN'T INSIDE IT... WHATEVER IT WAS!





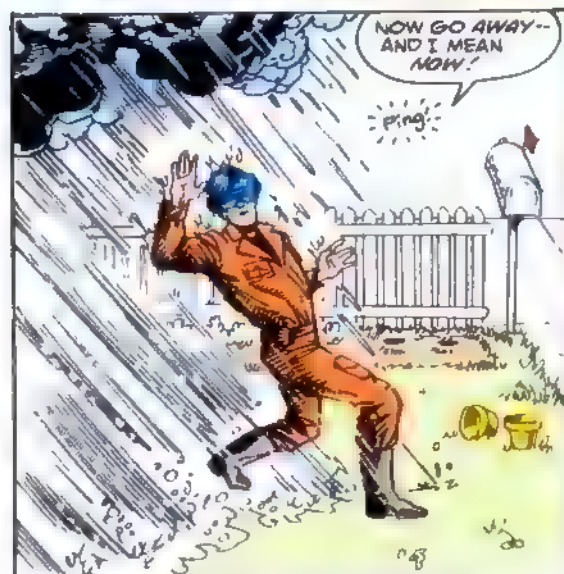




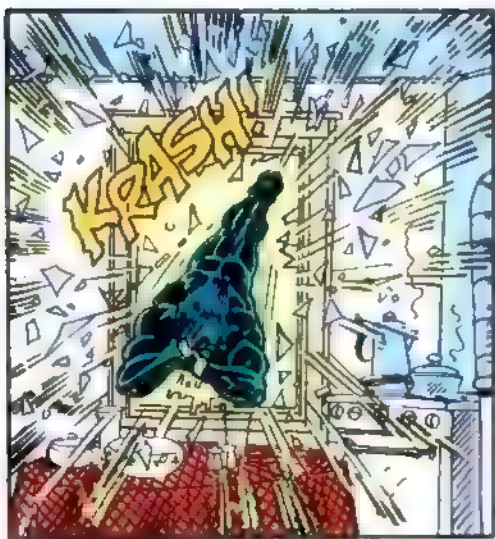
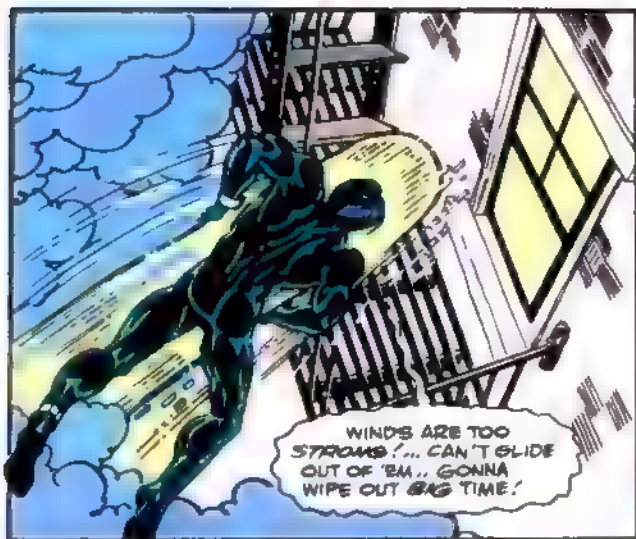
## "THE MOST FATEFUL TRIP"

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ROD OLLERENSHAW, LETTERER    JOEY CAVALIERI, EDITOR  
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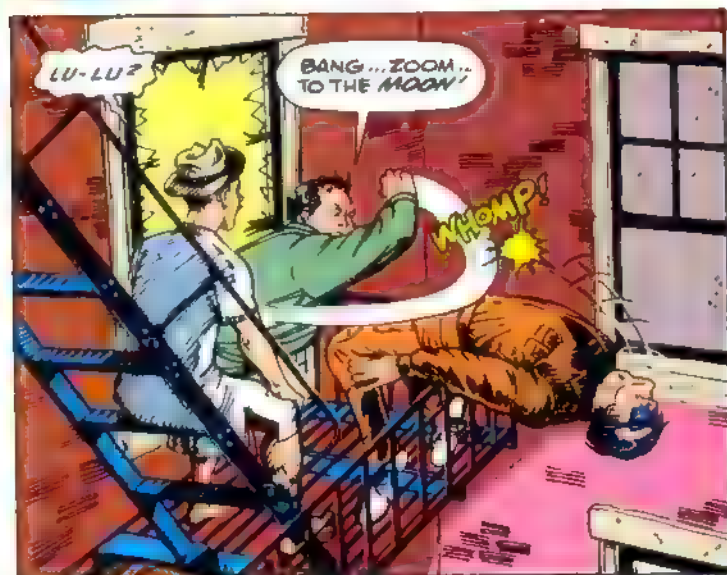
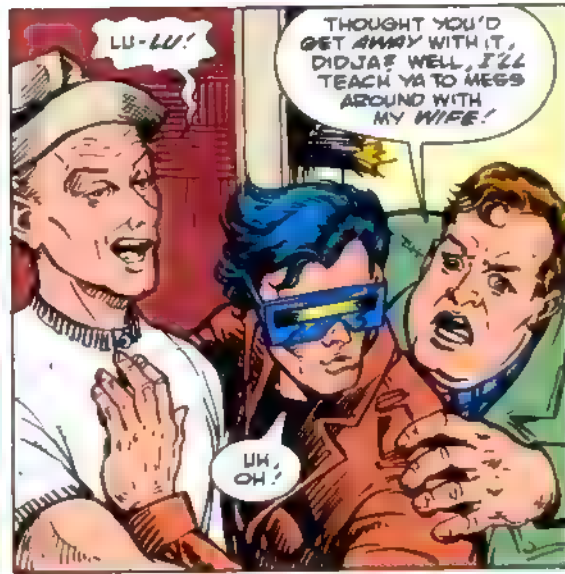
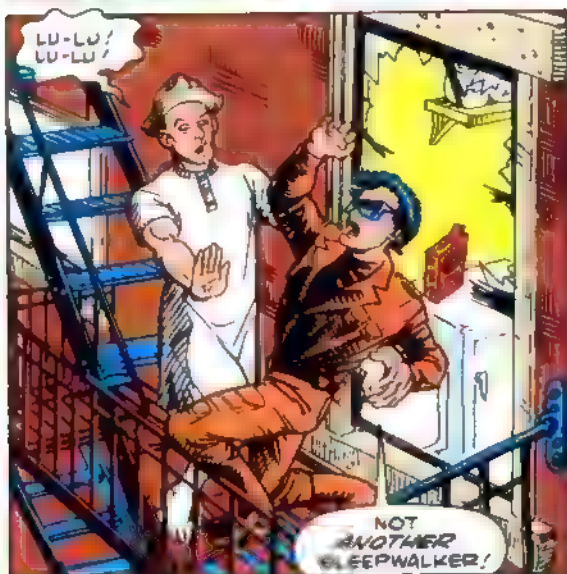
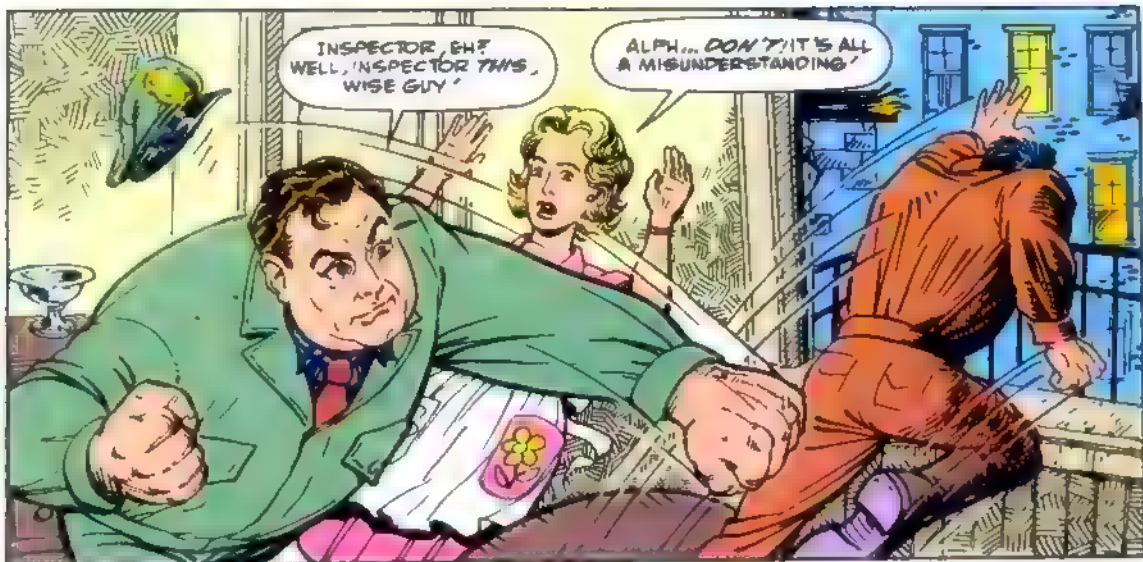




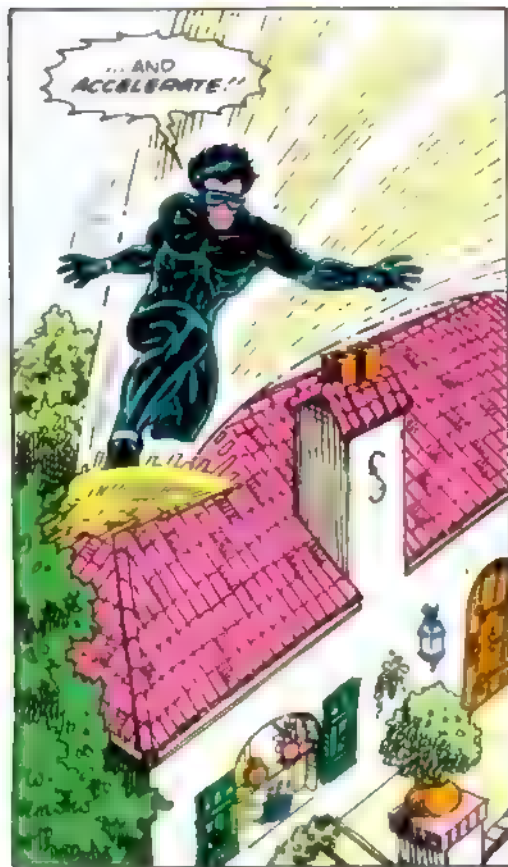




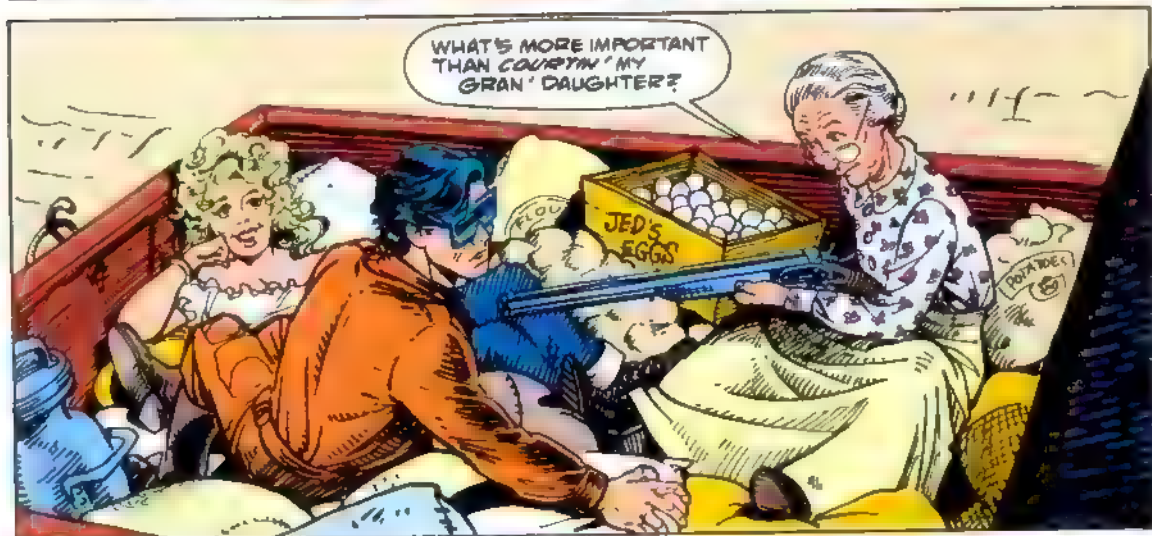
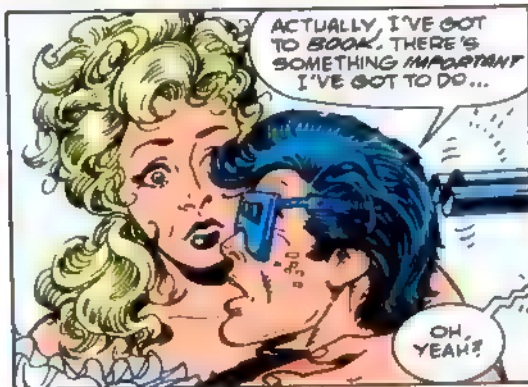
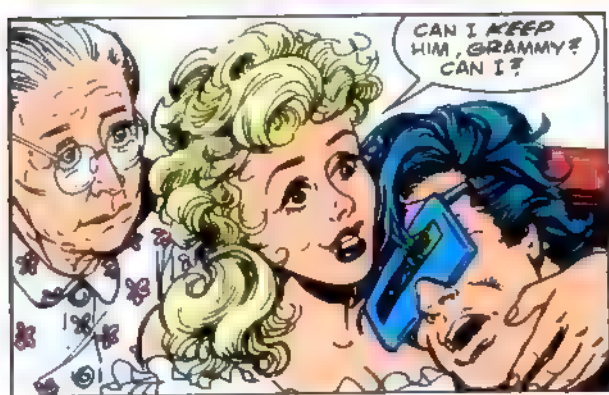
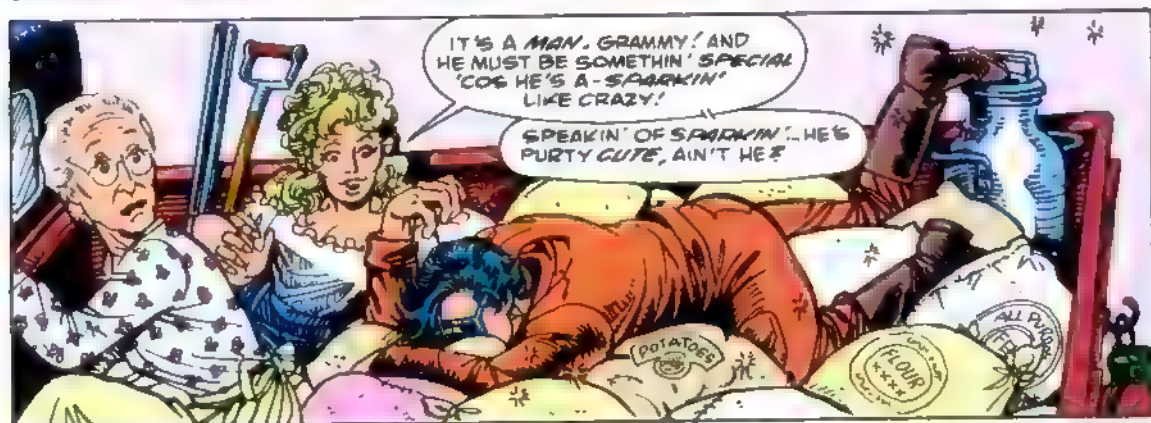
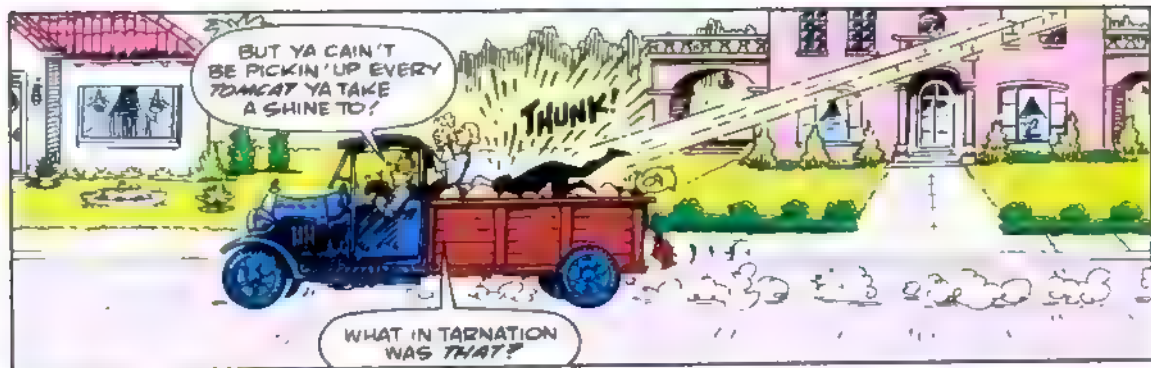




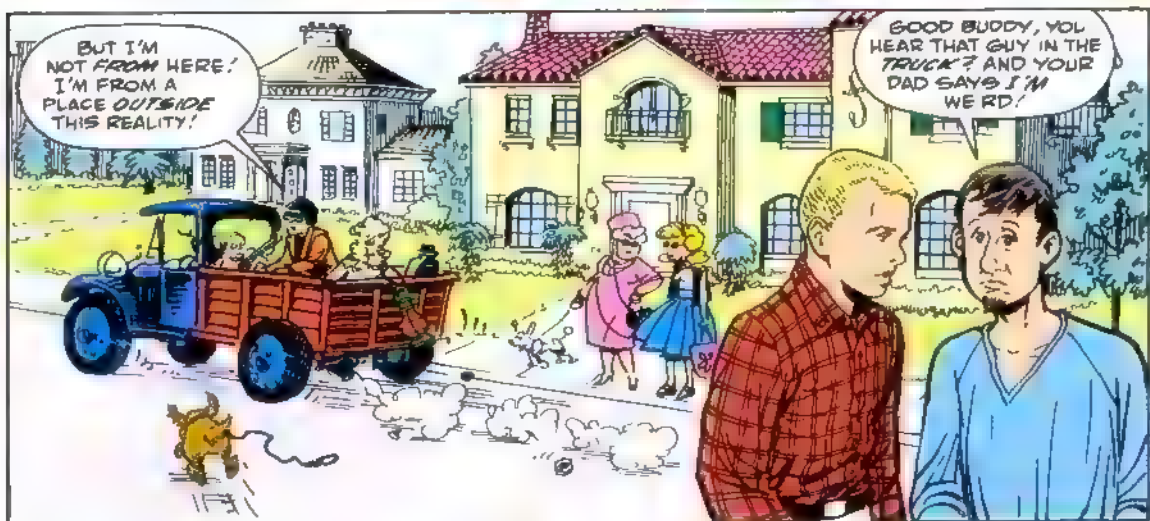
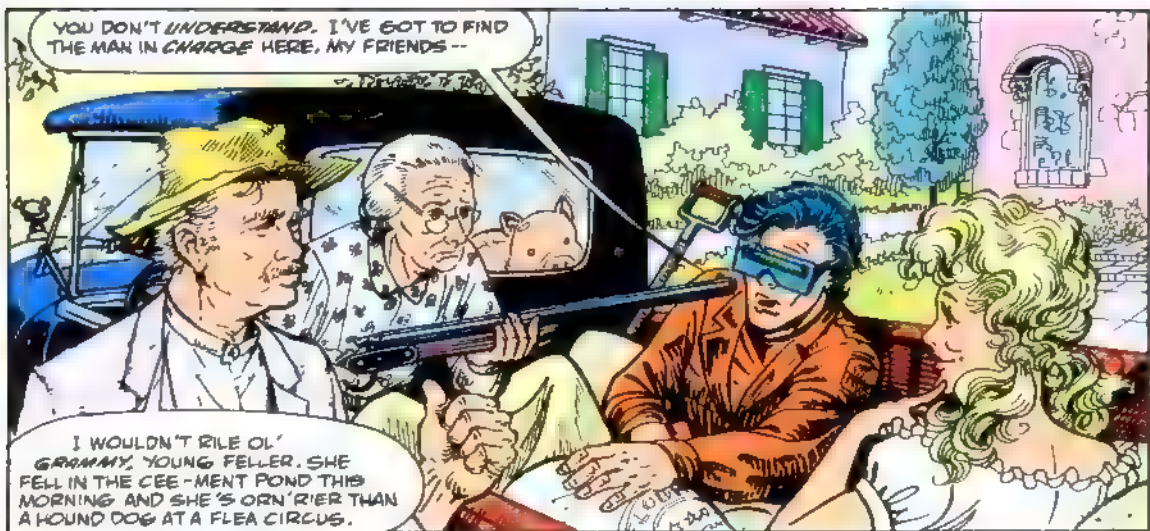




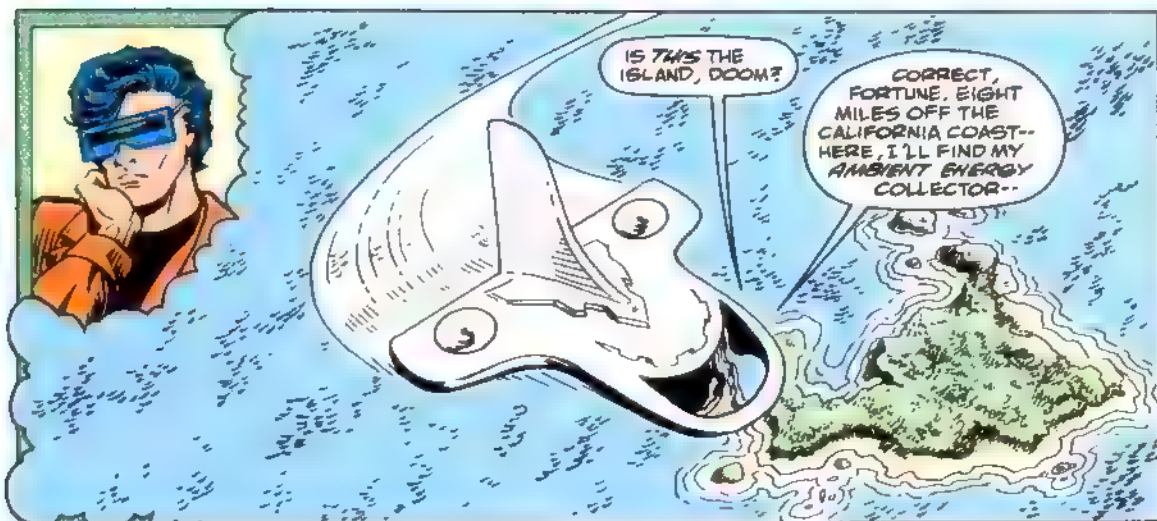






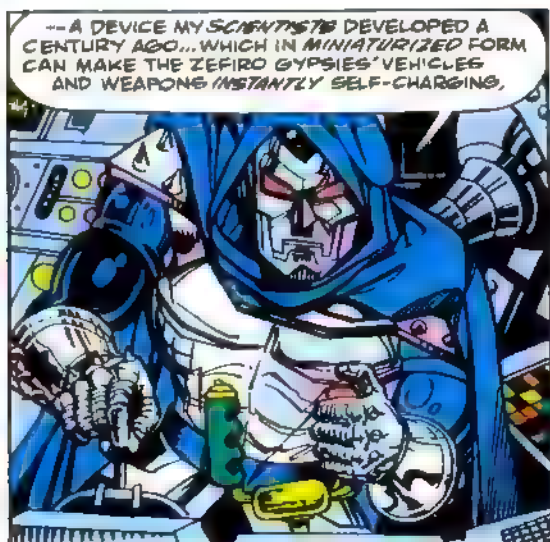






IS THIS THE ISLAND, DOOM?

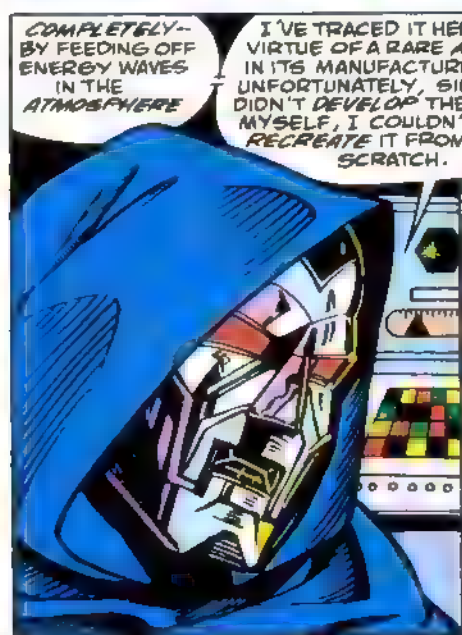
CORRECT, FORTUNE, EIGHT MILES OFF THE CALIFORNIA COAST-- HERE, I'LL FIND MY AMBIENT ENERGY COLLECTOR--



--A DEVICE MY SCIENTISTS DEVELOPED A CENTURY AGO...WHICH IN MINIATURIZED FORM CAN MAKE THE ZEFIRO GYPSIES' VEHICLES AND WEAPONS INSTANTLY SELF-CHARGING,

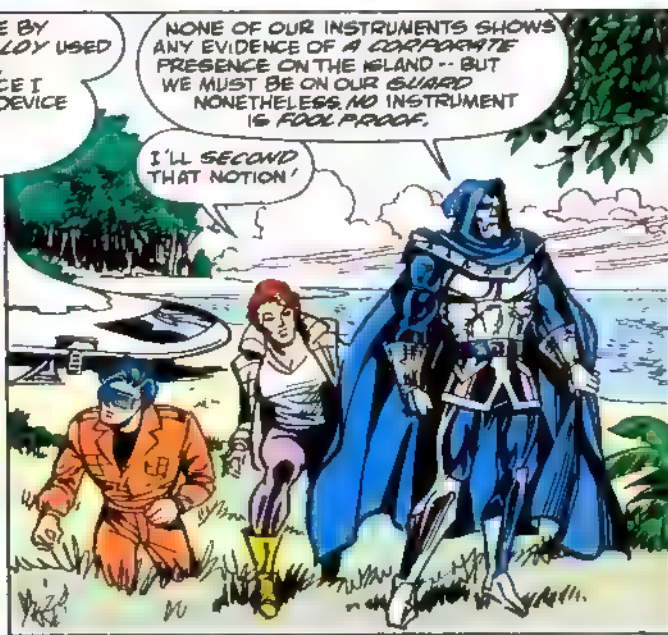


SELF-CHARGING? YOU MEAN THIS THING CAN ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR POWER SOURCES?



COMPLETELY-- BY FEEDING OFF ENERGY WAVES IN THE ATMOSPHERE

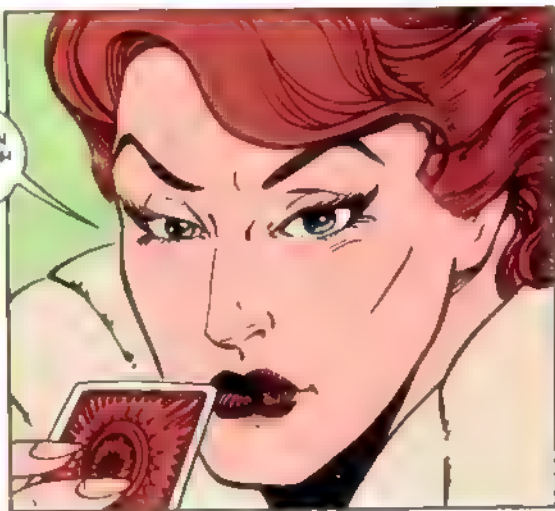
I'VE TRACED IT HERE BY VIRTUE OF A RARE ALLOY USED IN ITS MANUFACTURE. UNFORTUNATELY, SINCE I DIDN'T DEVELOP THE DEVICE MYSELF, I COULDN'T RECREATE IT FROM SCRATCH.



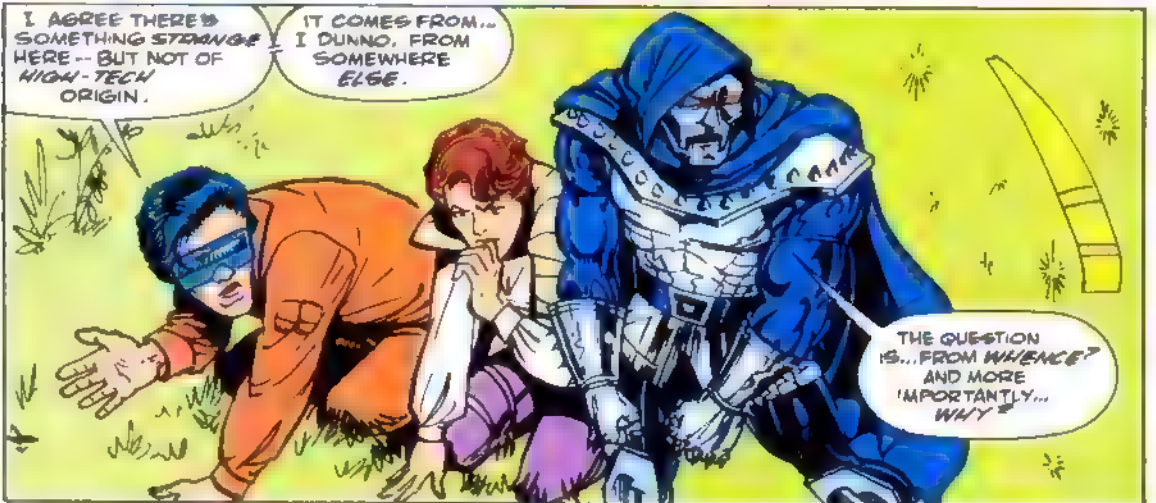
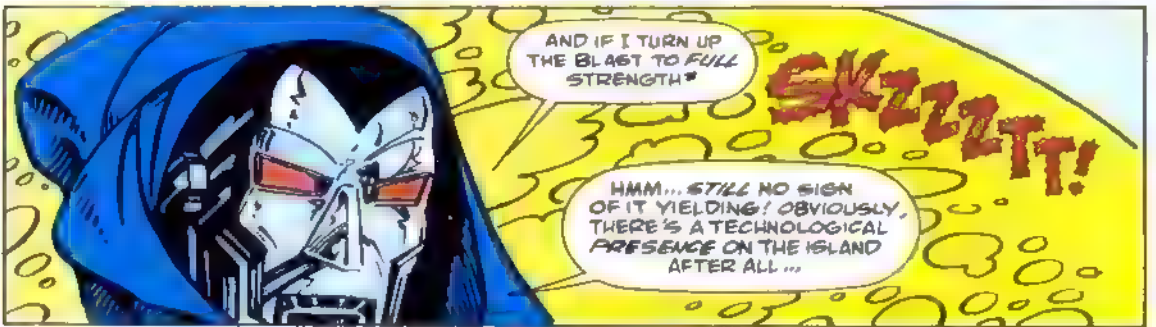
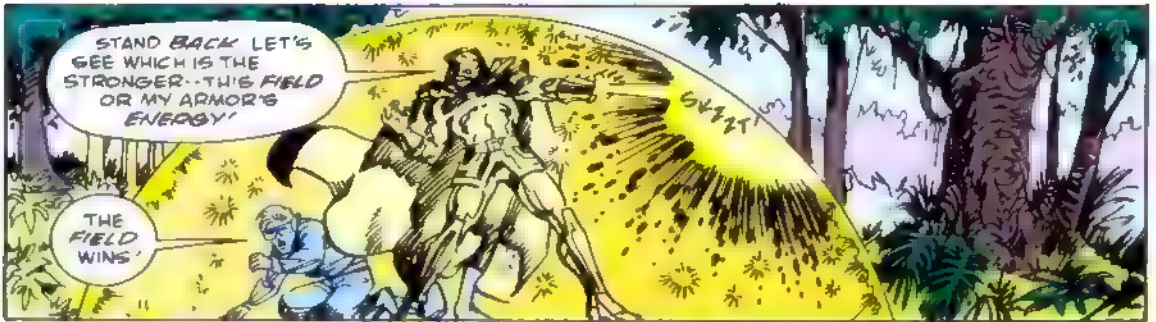
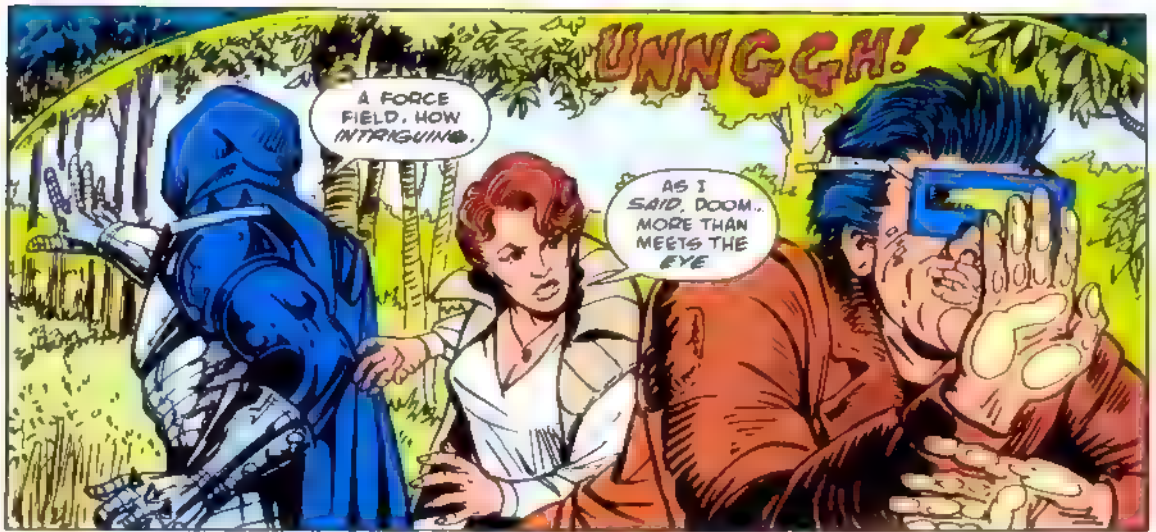
NONE OF OUR INSTRUMENTS SHOWS ANY EVIDENCE OF A CORPORATE PRESENCE ON THE ISLAND-- BUT WE MUST BE ON OUR GUARD NONETHELESS, NO INSTRUMENT IS FOOL PROOF.

I'LL SECOND THAT NOTION!

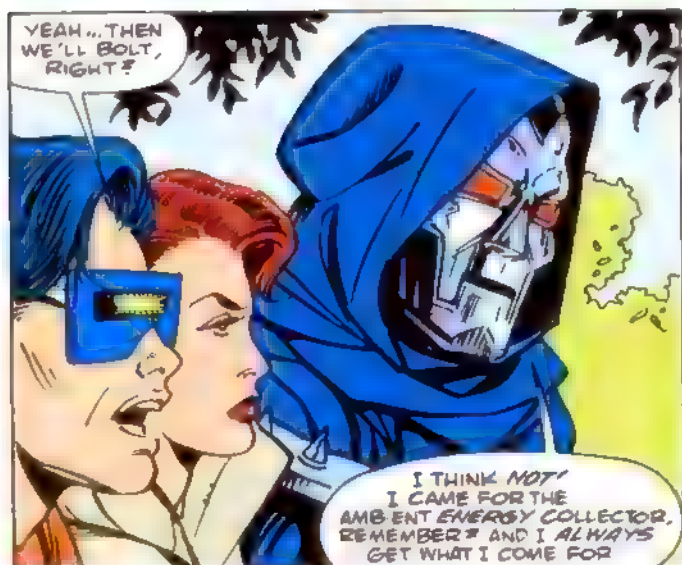
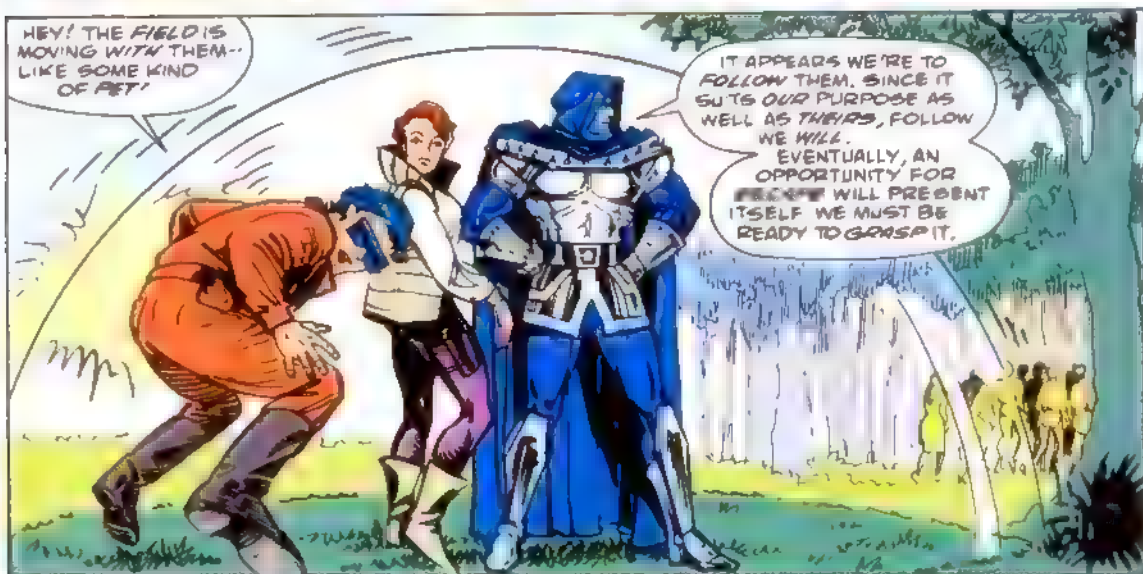
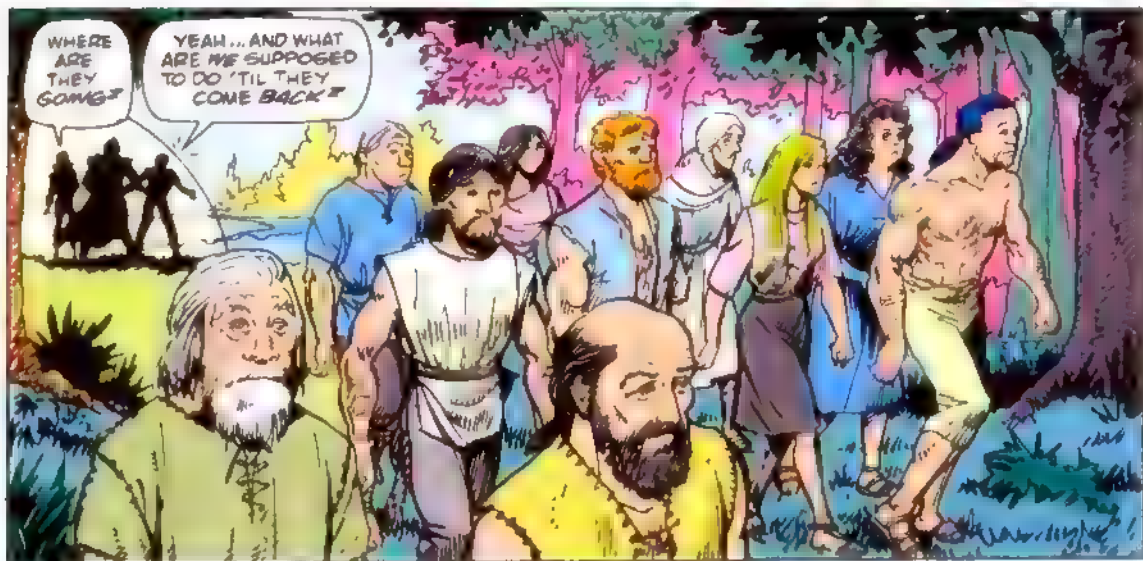




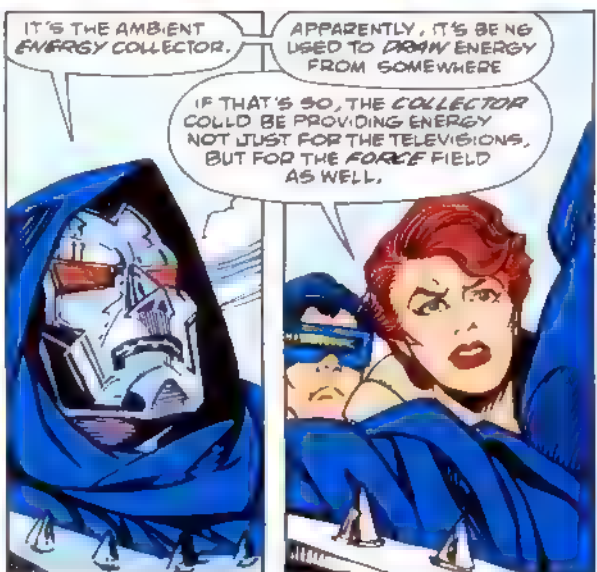
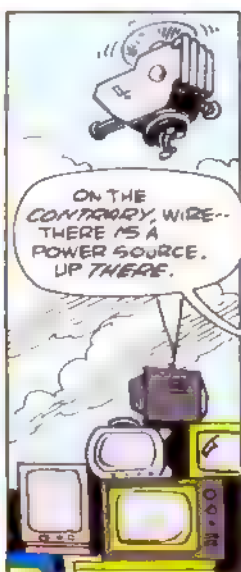
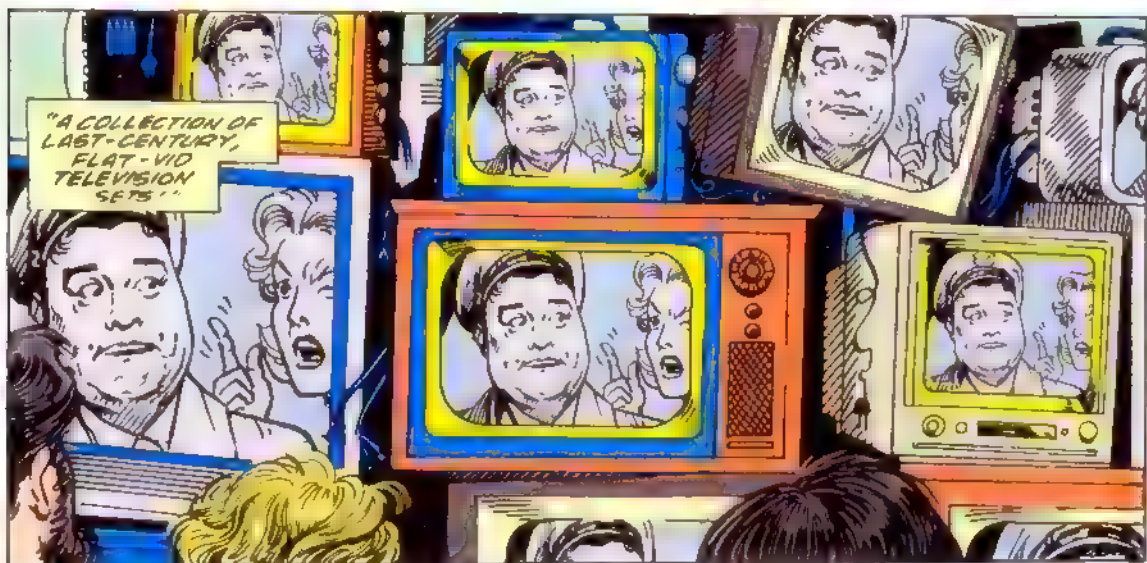
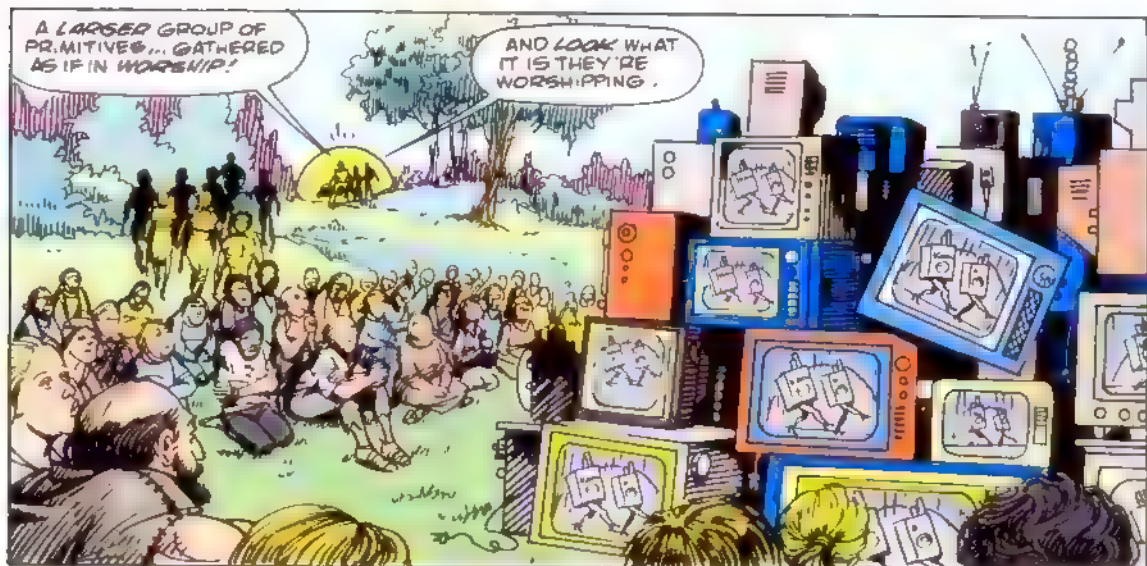




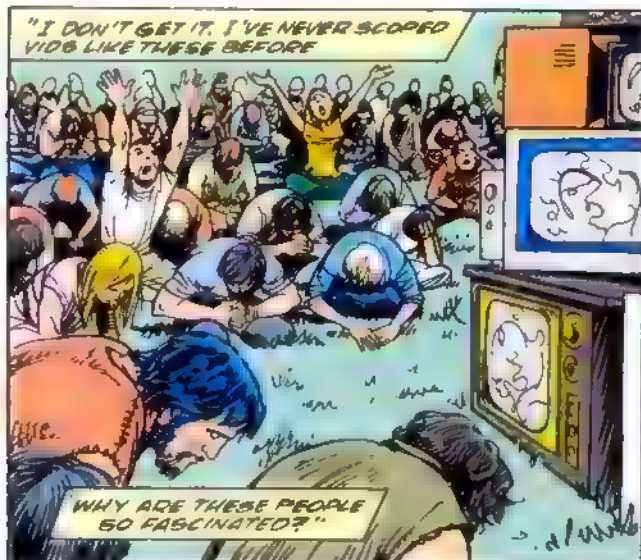












"I DON'T GET IT. I'VE NEVER SCORED VIDS LIKE THESE BEFORE"

WHY ARE THESE PEOPLE SO FASCINATED?"



THE FORCE FIELD... IT'S BEGINNING TO DISSIPATE.

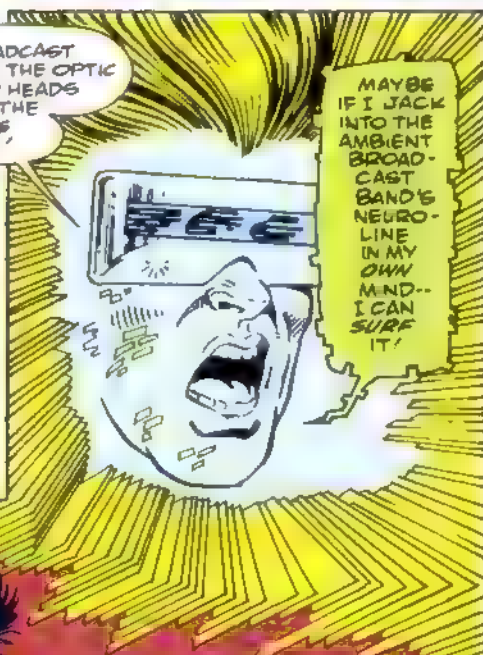
BUT SOMETHING ELSE IS TAKING ITS PLACE... A FORM OF LETHARGY...



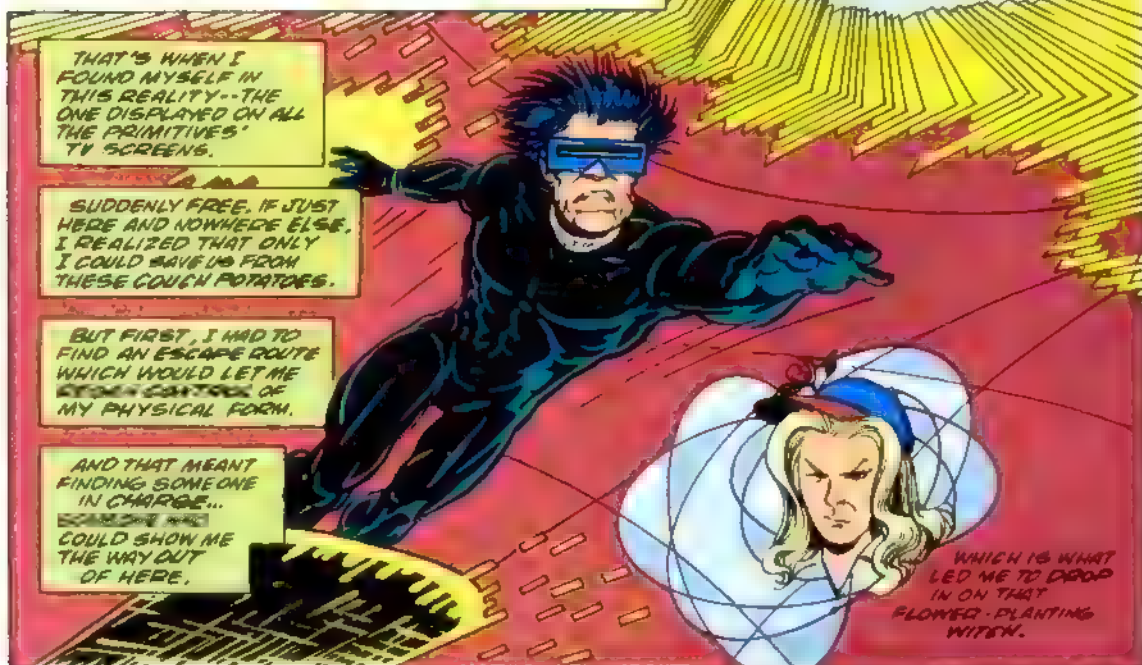
WE'RE FALLING ASLEEP ON OUR FEET! FIGHT IT!

SUCH POWER... LOSING CONSCIOUSNESS...

THE BROADCAST BYPASSES THE OPTIC NERVE AND HEADS RIGHT TO THE NERVOUS SYSTEM!



MAYBE IF I JACK INTO THE AMBIENT BROADCAST BAND'S NEURO-LINE IN MY OWN MIND... I CAN SURF IT!



THAT'S WHEN I FOUND MYSELF IN THIS REALITY--THE ONE DISPLAYED ON ALL THE PRIMITIVES' TV SCREENS.

SUDDENLY FREE, IF JUST HERE AND NOWHERE ELSE, I REALIZED THAT ONLY I COULD SAVE US FROM THESE COUCH POTATOES.

BUT FIRST, I HAD TO FIND AN ESCAPE ROUTE WHICH WOULD LET ME RE-~~ENTER~~ CONTROL OF MY PHYSICAL FORM.

AND THAT MEANT FINDING SOMEONE IN CHARGE... ~~SOMEONE WHO~~ COULD SHOW ME THE WAY OUT OF HERE.

WHICH IS WHAT LED ME TO DROP IN ON THAT FLOWER-PLANTING WITEN.



